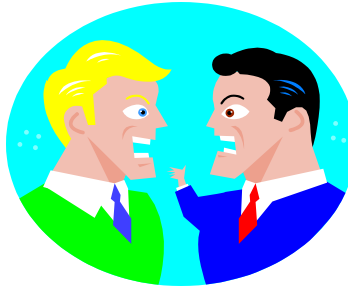




Sen. Rick Santorum



Rep. Bill Thomas



Rep. Tom Delay



Rep. Billy Tauzin

Legislation Held Hostage by Republican Infighting

As the first session of the 108th Congress struggles to a close, Republican infighting and stonewalling are holding hostage many bills important to the American people. The Republican Party controls the White House, the Senate and the House, but **predictably they are trying to blame Democrats for their inability to govern.**

Roll Call reported recently that **Senator Rick Santorum** tried to blame Democrats for GOP failures instead of taking responsibility. He wrote in a memo to colleagues: "We must act on key legislation before this session comes to a close... **It is clear that the Democrats will continue to slow-walk and obstruct legislative business...**"

The facts paint a different picture – one of Republican infighting, arrogance and mismanagement. One month into the new fiscal year, 10 of 13 appropriations bills have not been completed, the GOP failed to meet its OWN deadline to complete Medicare prescription drug legislation, and the energy bill is languishing under increasing criticism from editorial boards around the country. **See below for more details on legislation held hostage by Republican infighting.**



The Child Tax Credit: Republican Fighting Leaves Children Behind

Earlier this year, House and Senate Republican leaders excluded low-income working families from receiving the accelerated increase in the child tax credit in the "Jobs and Growth" package so that the final price tag wouldn't exceed \$350 billion. When it came to light that **Republicans had axed working Americans when forced to choose between millionaires or working families**, they raced to end the embarrassment. Republicans in the House and Senate quickly passed bills extending acceleration of the child tax credit to those families, but they differed widely in size and scope. **The House Republican leadership constructed an \$82 billion bill knowing that their Senate colleagues would never accept the House bill and, therefore, low-income working families would not receive this tax relief.** The child tax credit has

languished since June, while **Majority Leader Tom DeLay feebly protests that the House can only provide families with this tax cut if it is permanent as provided in the House bill – not withstanding the fact that none of the GOP tax cuts are permanent.**

Medicare: A Fight a Day Keeps the Prescription Drug Bill Away

Republicans initially claimed they would complete Medicare prescription drug conference report before the August recess. Then they said it would be done in September. Then they said it would be done in October. Then Oct. 17th, the GOP's self-proclaimed deadline for producing a bill, came and went with no conference report. **House Democrats have been completely excluded from the process, and therefore couldn't "slow-walk" this bill if they tried.** It's well-known that spats provoked mostly by Rep. Bill Thomas, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as demands from conservative Republicans, have disrupted conference proceedings and suffocated negotiations. **The tiffs between Thomas and Senate Chairman Grassley are so public and well-documented that they even made the front page of Roll Call on Oct. 23rd and were detailed in CongressDaily on October 27th.**



Energy Bill: Republican Fighting Leaves America in the Dark

Bogged down by spats between leading Republican members, Chairman Tauzin, and Chairman Pete Domenici, as well as Majority Whip Tom DeLay, Speaker Dennis Hastert, Representative Joe Barton, Senator Trent Lott, Senator Don Nickles and Senator Charles Grassley, **the highly publicized energy reform legislation can't seem to move forward.** Standoffs over tax incentives, ANWR, MTBE, and alternative fuels taxes have not been resolved after a year's worth of meetings and work. **Even this past summer's power blackout, which disrupted the lives of 50 million people and cost the economy an estimated \$6 billion, doesn't seem reason enough for Republicans to bring Democrats into the process to craft a bipartisan bill that will pass quickly.**

Disabled Veterans Tax: Divided GOP Forces Disabled Vets to Wait for Deserved Benefits

The bipartisan Concurrent Receipt legislation (H.R. 303), which was sponsored by Representative Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) and cosponsored by 373 House members, would ensure that disabled veterans receive their full disability and retirement benefits. Currently, disabled veterans have their military retirement pay reduced, dollar for every dollar, by the amount of disability benefits they receive. **House leaders have tried to sidestep this legislation, despite overwhelming support by both Republicans and Democrats, and President Bush threatened a veto of any bill that included this provision.** House Republican leaders announced a proposal in mid-October to partially end the "disabled veterans tax" for some, but not all, military retirees suffering from disabilities related to their service, and, even worse, veterans will not see full benefits for 10 years.

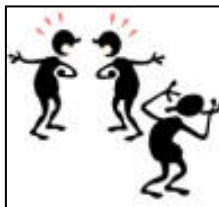


FAA Reauthorization Conference Report: Republicans Say “Not in My Backyard” to White House and Leaders

Thumbing its nose at the Republican-controlled House and Senate, the White House threatened to veto the FAA reauthorization conference report unless it privatized air traffic control, even though both chambers passed bipartisan bills that included a prohibition against privatization. Republican leaders obediently placed a provision in the Conference Report privatizing 69 air traffic control towers. But rank-and-file Republican members, joined by a unified Democratic caucus, have refused to support the White House and their leadership. The conference report has been stalled for months and Congress was forced to pass a temporary extension when the current reauthorization ran out on September 30th. **Now Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Mica is trying to buy-off Republican votes by removing towers in Republican districts from the privatization list – it seems the Republicans have caught a case of the Not-In-My-BackYard syndrome.** This latest vote-getting scheme is a clear demonstration that Republicans do not believe their own rhetoric that privatization makes for safer air travel.

Defense Authorization Bill: The War on Terrorism Can Wait For Republicans to Stop Fighting

Republican infighting has hung up this significant bill for a variety of reasons. A fight between Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and White House-backed Republican members over requirements that the Defense Department purchase more of its equipment and technology from American companies has consumed much of the conference’s time. **With the United States at war against terrorists in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, this is hardly the time for squabbling over a bill that lays out defense policy.**



Military Construction Appropriations: Republican Fighting Frustrates Chairman

Military Construction Appropriations is yet another bill important to the war on terrorism held hostage to Republican infighting. Negotiations on this bill, which is traditionally one of the first appropriations bills to pass, are at a standstill because of Republican disagreements over allocating money for domestic projects versus sending money overseas for Pentagon priorities. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), in particular, is at odds with Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), Chairman of the House Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, over \$292 million for projects in Europe and South Korea. **Even House Appropriations Chairman Bill Young said, “I have finally run out of excuses to my leadership about why we haven’t completed this conference.”**

Manufacturing / International Tax Incentives: Chairman Bill "I'll Do it My Way" Thomas Slows Down Critical International Tax Legislation

Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas has delayed progress for months as he tried to cobble together a "Christmas Tree" of miscellaneous tax breaks to win support for his measure (H.R. 2986) to end the foreign sales corporation / extraterritorial income (FSC/ETI) tax regime and avoid nearly \$4 billion in trade-related sanctions from the EU and a crippling trade war.

Throughout the process, Thomas has ignored members of his own party and the Administration, who have worked to obtain substantial bipartisan agreement in the House (H.R. 1769, Crane/Rangel) and Senate (S. 1637, Grassley/Baucus) over how to address this problem. Instead of tackling this problem in a deficit-neutral, bipartisan manner, Thomas has fought to provide special interest tax incentives for corporations to ship jobs overseas during a time of historic job loss and deficits.

TEA-21: Transportation Bill Stuck in Neutral because of Republican Fighting

Reauthorization of the TEA-21 transportation bill has been held up for months due to an ongoing dispute between Transportation Committee Chairman Young and Majority Leader Tom DeLay. The two have been fighting over whether to raise the gas tax by 5 cents to pay for more highway spending. Release of the House proposal has been put off until 2004 and the delay has necessitated a temporary 5-month extension of the current program. Instead of the investments in infrastructure that a new TEA-21 bill would generate, which would create greatly needed jobs, House Republicans spent all their capital on tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

